

Aldermanic races

Return responses by fax (-173-871-7609). regular mail (Windy City Times, c/o Andrew Davis. 5315 N. Clark. #192. Chicago. Ill., 60640) or e-mail (Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com). Call 773-871-7610. ext. 201, if questions arise.

DEADLINE: Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, by 5 p.m. LATE RESPONSES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Please feel free to use additional paper as needed.

YOUR NAME: **Michael Diaz**

INCUMBENT? **No**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **Ward 45**

1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination?

Yes, I would.

2) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT related issues?

Yes, I would.

3) Have you taken or would you take any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures?

Yes, I would consult with LGBT leaders and see what types of steps they recommend to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs.

4) What is your position on abortion as it pertains to the law?

As an attorney, I support what the Supreme Court has held on this issue and would never work to pass a measure to undermine the court's holding.

5) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?

I would consult with LGBT leaders and seek to improve funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education, based on their recommendations.

6) Do you favor marriage equality (marriage between two people of the same gender)?

Yes.

7) Do you favor hate-crimes legislation that increases penalties for crimes committed based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the person attacked?

Yes.

8) Do you believe LGBTs should become foster parents if they are qualified?

Yes.

9) Do you believe LGBTs have the right to adopt children if they are qualified?

Yes.

10) Would you keep committees such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues?

Yes.

11) What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students.

much like the Harvey Milk School in New York City?

I would seek to improve the atmosphere at ALL city public schools for LGBT students. If necessary and recommended by the LGBT community, I would look into the feasibility of an LGBT school.

l2) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?

Yes.

l3) Would you advocate for mandatory LGBT inclusive history education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

Yes.

l4) Would you advocate for mandatory comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive and age-appropriate sex education in Chicago public schools starting in middle school?

Yes.

l5) What would you recommend to have a better relationship between police and the citizens they serve, including people of color and the transgender community?

We need to better integrate local police districts with the community. If residents and the police have more face-to-face contact, the police will be able to better understand the challenges and issues faced by these communities.

l6) If you are an incumbent, did you vote for the recent increase in the city's minimum wage and, if a challenger, would you have? Also, what do you think is the ideal minimum wage for the city of Chicago?

Yes, I would have. The minimum wage should be at a level that allows full-time employees to support themselves and their families.

l7) How do you propose to handle the crime rate in Chicago, especially in minority neighborhoods?

First and foremost, we need to become less dependent on overtime in order to fill voids in the police force. A recent report indicated that payments for overtime exceeding \$100 million in 2013, and has been in excess of budgetary projections the past three years. We need to be honest with residents and admit we have to hire additional personnel. Although I do not support investing every overtime dollar in new personnel, we should consider a hybrid approach that dictates hiring of new personnel when overtime expenditures exceed 100% of budgetary forecasts. Our budget should be accurate and stable.

l8) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing your ward? How do you propose to tackle that problem?

The greatest concern from residents of the ward is that there seems to be two 45th Wards - one that is seeking to become the next Wicker Park and the other that is supportive of families and a community that maintains a certain quality of life. We must address development in a way that we do not lose the character of the ward by adopting a one size fits all mentality. We can accommodate divergent views and development ideas within the ward without losing its underlying character.

l9) Some studies show that 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBTQ. What would you do to provide more resources for prevention, education and services for the entire homeless youth population?

This isn't an area where I have a great deal of knowledge, but again I would solicit solutions from LGBT leaders and champion those solutions in City Council.

20) New York City eliminated barriers to transgender people changing their birth certificates. They just need a letter from a doctor to do so. Would you support this for Chicago?
Yes.

21) Are any members of your current staff-either campaign or general office personnel-openly LGBT?

I employ a political and fundraising consulting firm that has a very diverse staff, including openly LGBT employees.

22) Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues.

As a Civil Rights Analyst and Investigator at the University of Illinois at Chicago, I developed training initiatives to address the legal rights afforded to members of the LGBT community.

23) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today?

I believe the biggest challenge facing the LGBT community lies within the lack of programs within our public schools designed to foster awareness and understanding of the LGBT community, its history, and its issues.